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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Conventional disarmament on a regional scale

Report of the Secretary-General

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THAILAND

[Original: English]

[13 August 1991]

1. The defence doctrine of the Royal Thai Government is defensive in nature. Accordingly, the armed forces are allocated only sufficient budget to ensure its readiness and capability to protect Thailand's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

2. The Royal Thai Government has gradually reduced the percentage of the annual national budget allocated to the Ministry of Defense in recent years. In 1983, the Royal Thai Government appropriated 20.37 per cent of the annual budget to the Ministry of Defense. The budget allocated to defence decreased in successive years, to 18.71 per cent in 1984, 18.46 per cent in 1985, 18.01 per cent in 1986, 17.21 per cent in 1987, 16.91 per cent in 1988 and 15.58 per cent in 1989.

3. Thailand is also of the view that effective regional disarmament can only be brought about by the reduction in the size of the armed forces and military budget of the countries in the region. Moreover, external powers should cease to provide military assistance and arms to countries in the region.